



## ABSTRACT / ZUSAMMENFASSUNG / ABREGE

02254808.5

The invention proposes a power amplification under variable envelope excitation, wherein an original input signal at least is converted into a phase modulated signal part, at least the phase modulated signal part is fed to an input port of an amplifier unit, the input signal is amplified by dynamically selecting a fixed power supply (PSU 1, PSU 2, PSU 3) for the amplifier unit, and wherein the amplitude content of the original input signal is reconstructed by changing dependent on the respective provided power supply a further controllable input of the amplifier unit, in particular the input power level ( $P_{in}$ ) and/or the biasing voltage ( $U_g$ ) and/or biasing current at the control input of the amplifier unit, during said step of amplifying.





**Eur päisches  
Patentamt**

**European  
Patent Office**

**Office eur péen  
des brevets**

**Bescheinigung**

**Certificate**

**Attestation**

Die angehefteten Unterla-  
gen stimmen mit der  
ursprünglich eingereichten  
Fassung der auf dem näch-  
sten Blatt bezeichneten  
europäischen Patentanmel-  
dung überein.

The attached documents  
are exact copies of the  
European patent application  
described on the following  
page, as originally filed.

Les documents fixés à  
cette attestation sont  
conformes à la version  
initialement déposée de  
la demande de brevet  
européen spécifiée à la  
page suivante.

**Patentanmeldung Nr. Patent application No. Demande de brevet n°**

02254808.5

Der Präsident des Europäischen Patentamts;  
Im Auftrag

For the President of the European Patent Office

Le Président de l'Office européen des brevets  
p.o.

**R C van Dijk**

DEN HAAG, DEN  
THE HAGUE, 06/08/02  
LA HAYE, LE





Eur päisches  
Patentamt

Eur pean  
Patent Office

Office européen  
des brevets

**Blatt 2 der Bescheinigung**  
**Sheet 2 of the certificate**  
**Page 2 de l'attestation**

Anmeldung Nr.:  
Application no.:  
Demande n°: 02254808.5

Anmeldetag:  
Date of filing:  
Date de dépôt: 09/07/02

Anmelder:  
Applicant(s):  
Demandeur(s):  
LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC.  
Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974-0636  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bezeichnung der Erfindung:  
Title of the invention:  
Titre de l'invention:

Power amplification by using different fixed power supply signals for the amplifier

In Anspruch genommene Priorität(en) / Priority(ies) claimed / Priorité(s) revendiquée(s)

Staat:  
State:  
Pays:

Tag:  
Date:  
Date:

Aktenzeichen:  
File no.  
Numéro de dépôt:

Internationale Patentklassifikation:  
International Patent classification:  
Classification internationale des brevets:

/

Am Anmeldetag benannte Vertragsstaaten:  
Contracting states designated at date of filing:  
Etats contractants désignés lors du dépôt:

AT/BE/CH/CY/DE/DK/ES/FI/FR/GB/GR/IE/IT/LI/LU/MC/NL/PT/SE/TR

Bemerkungen:  
Remarks:  
Remarques:



## POWER AMPLIFICATION BY USING DIFFERENT FIXED POWER SUPPLY SIGNALS FOR THE AMPLIFIER

### Description

The invention relates to power amplification under variable envelope excitation.

Conventionally, power amplifier concepts operate the power amplifiers  
5 with fixed input and output loads. These loads are usually chosen such that the gain, the output power or the efficiency is optimized depending on the need of the specific application. In particular regarding mobile communication systems, such an application may be a battery powered amplifier in a user equipment or mobile station or may be an amplifier for a base station.

10 In case of battery powered amplifier the load usually is chosen such that the efficiency is optimized, wherein in case of an amplifier for a base station the optimization for a maximum output power is needed.

Normally it is not possible to get an optimum for all the above-mentioned three parameters at the same time as each of these parameters is requiring at least a  
15 slightly different input/output matching network.

For signals with a peak power to average power ratio of one, such as a frequency modulated (FM) or phase modulated (PM) signal or a GMSK (Gaussian Minimum Shift Keying) signal used in a GSM (Global System for Mobile communication) system, this conventional design concept usually works well as the  
20 power amplifier operates all the time near its maximum output power, where the amplifier yields a high efficiency so that the loads which have to be chosen for an optimum output power and an optimum efficiency normally are not very different.

For the signals however, with high peak to average power ratios, the power amplifier has to be operated most of the time at an output power level that is  
25 some dB below the maximum output power, such as for example 8 to 10 dB below the peak power for a W-CDMA (Wideband-Code Division Multiple Access) signal in the downlink path. For the average power level the transistor efficiency is only a small part, for example one fifth, of that efficiency at maximum output power. Hence for signals with high peak to average ratios, most of the consumed DC power is dissipated in heat

and only a small part of this DC power is converted to the wished RF power. As a consequence, the high DC power increases operating costs and the large amount of dissipated heat increases costs for the amplifier cooling equipment including operating costs for active cooling systems, such as air conditioning, and material costs for bigger  
5 heat-sinks and better heat conducting materials.

Consequently, from a standpoint of costs and environmental friendly design, it is preferable to have a power amplifier that has an efficiency that is as high as possible for signals with high peak to average ratios.

Known concepts for enhancing the efficiency of a power amplifier under  
10 variable envelope excitation are in particular the concept according to the Doherty amplifier, to the Chireix's outphasing amplifier, to the Envelope Elimination and Restoration (EER), as invented by Kahn, and to the Bias adaptation.

Regarding the Doherty amplifier in more detail, two amplifiers with a special combining network are used. The amplifiers are called main amplifier and  
15 auxiliary amplifier. For output power levels close to the combined maximum output power of both transistors, both amplifiers are active. As the output power is reduced, the auxiliary amplifier shuts down at a certain level and generates no more RF power, whereas the main amplifier is still active. Such a shut down is typically at 6 dB below the maximum combined output power. For this power back-off condition the main  
20 amplifier is near its maximum output power and thus the efficiency is almost at its optimum. However, one of the most drawbacks of this concept is, that two amplifiers with a special controlling and combining network are needed.

Regarding the Chireix's outphasing amplifier, the amplitude modulation of an input signal, that causes the high peak to average power ratio is converted to a  
25 phase modulation. This converting process is done at baseband frequencies usually by employing digital processing, wherein the converting process generates two phase modulated signals that have to be processed in parallel up to the output of the amplifier unit. As these two signals contain only phase modulation, highly non linear amplifiers can be used that yield good efficiency. The original signal with its original phase  
30 modulation content and original amplitude modulation content is reconstructed at the output of both non linear amplifiers with help of a special combining network. As a disadvantageous consequence, two complete amplifier chains from the baseband up to



the output of the amplifier unit are necessary and the combining network at the output is difficult to realize.

By using the known concept of envelope elimination and restoration (EER), the amplitude modulation of the amplifier input signal is sensed via an envelope  
5 detector. Then the amplitude modulation is taken from the input signal by passing it through a limiter. The phase modulation of the input signal is preserved by this process. As the input signal to the amplifier then contains only phase modulation, a high efficient non linear amplifier can be used. The amplitude modulation of the original signal is restored at the output of the amplifier by changing the amplifiers supply voltage  
10 according to the envelope detector output voltage. The efficiency enhancement is based on the fact that an amplifier efficiency is best when the amplifier supply voltage is just as high to accommodate the necessary voltage swing at the amplifier load.

However, the controlling of the supply voltage or current for the amplifier is difficult to achieve because of the speed of the necessary voltage and  
15 current changes. Furthermore, the efficiency of the necessary DC/DC converter worsens the efficiency budget of the whole amplifier unit.

Thus the drawbacks of the known EER technique are lying mainly in the fact, that even the most recent DC/DC converters are not able to provide the fast changes in the amplifier supply voltage and/or current needed to reconstruct the  
20 amplitude of the original signal at the amplifier unit output, which holds true especially for broadband signals like a UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunication System) signal with high power amplifiers.

Finally, the bias adaptation concept is in principle the same as the envelope elimination and restoration, but a conventional linear RF-amplifier is used  
25 instead of a saturated amplifier. Accordingly, the amplitude content is not removed from the input signal.

It is an object of the invention to provide in particular with regard to the above discussed state of the art, a new and improved efficiency enhanced power amplifier approach resulting in further reduced operational costs, lower efforts for  
30 thermal management for the amplifier unit itself and the component in which the amplifier is embedded and in the possibility to design more environmental friendly amplifiers, especially suitable for applications within wireless systems, cellular networks, terrestrial broadcasting systems and satellite based transmission systems.

The inventive solution of the object is achieved by a method and/or a power amplifier incorporating the features of claim 1 and claim 7, respectively.

Advantageous and/or preferred embodiments or refinements are the subject matter of the respective dependent claims.

5                   Accordingly, the invention proposes to perform power amplification under variable envelope excitation in that an original input signal is converted at least into a phase modulated input signal part, wherein at least the phase modulated input signal part is fed to the input port of an amplifier unit for amplifying the input signal by an individual or dynamical selection of a fixed supply power for the amplifier unit,  
10 wherein the amplitude content of the original input signal is reconstructed by changing dependent on the respective provided supply power a further controllable amplifier unit input signal, preferably the power level of the amplifier unit and/or the amplifier input biasing voltage and/or biasing current, during said step of amplifying.

                  Thus in particular by using the inventive power amplifier comprising at  
15 least a final amplifier unit, means for feeding at least a phase modulated input signal part to the rf-input port of the amplifier unit, at least two selectable power supply units with different fixed output signals connected, in particular in parallel, to the supply port of the amplifier unit, means for dynamically selecting a total supply power signal by selecting the respective power supply unit(s) and means for controlling dependent on  
20 the respective selected supply power signal a further amplifier unit input, in particular the input power level and/or a biasing voltage and/or biasing current at the control input of the amplifier unit, the speed requirement associated with the variable supply power signal can be bypassed and the inventive concept can be realized with currently available components and design techniques.

25                   Consequently, the amplifier supply power signal is not used to reconstruct the amplitude part of the original input signal by continuously changing the amplifiers power supply according to the amplitude content of the original input signal, but is only used to provide the amplifier with various fixed supply power signals, in particular with fixed supply voltages or supply currents to mainly increase the  
30 amplifiers efficiency for lower output power levels.

                  Thus for the reconstruction of the amplitude content the inventive approach, in particular by changing the amplifiers biasing voltage and/or current at the control input or by changing the amplifiers input power level for different fixed supply

voltages or currents depending on the respective used type of amplifier unit, to reconstruct the amplitude content of the original signal at the amplifier units output is by far easier to handle than the reconstruction of the amplitude content with help of the amplifiers supply voltage.

5                   In particular, by using for the power supply units DC/DC converters and a digital signal processor for controlling the selection of these converters the individually selecting of fixed amplifying supply power signals can be performed easily by switching at least between two different fixed supply signals, such as between fixed supply voltages or supply currents, with the difference in providing amplifier gain  
10 thereby taken into account.

Moreover, the efficiency of a DC/DC converter providing a fixed supply power is better than the efficiency of a DC/DC converter providing a huge output range. Hence the optimization for a certain behavior such as efficiency or load regulation is easier as the converters need to output only a fixed voltage or current, so this benefits  
15 the efficiency of the overall amplifier unit including the power supplies.

In particular with regard to the reconstruction of the amplitude content by use of controlling the amplifier units bias, an inefficient linear regulator can be used to control the amplifiers biasing voltage and/or current at the control input as the DC power needed at the amplifier control input for biasing the amplifier is in general  
20 negligible compared to the DC power needed to generate the RF power.

Moreover, by using a linear regulator the speed of the signal envelope is no great deal anymore since linear regulators can be designed to be very fast.

Furthermore, the amplifier is preferably operated with a phase modulated input signal in a not over driven state to achieve an efficiency enhancement to achieve  
25 the necessary dynamics at the amplifiers output.

According to preferred refinements, a non-linearity of the system can be compensated by pre-distorting the supply signal for the amplifier unit and/or by pre-distorting the amplifier units biasing voltage and/or biasing current at the control input, so that the inventive approach of power amplification offers two ways to linearize the  
30 amplifier unit, whereas most of other efficiency enhancement or linearization techniques offer only one way to influence the linearity of the amplifier.

The inventive power amplifier preferably comprises a digital signal processor forming the means for controlling the variation of the amplifier units input

power level and/or wherein the means for controlling the variation of the amplifier units biasing voltage and/or biasing current at the control input comprises the digital signal processor and a D/A converter, wherein the digital signal processor is preferably also used as the control means for selecting the respective power supply unit. Moreover, the  
5 pre-distortion itself can be performed in a digital signal processor.

In praxis, it is proposed to convert the original input signal additionally into an amplitude modulated signal part, according to which a variation of the input power level can be adjust easily.

Moreover, according to preferred refinements it is proposed to lowpass  
10 filtering the control signal for providing the respective amplifier units biasing voltage and/or biasing current of the control input, preferably with a cut off frequency close to the modulation bandwidth of the original input signal, so that noise injected into the amplifier via the control line can be limited, such as for example the quantization noise of a digital to analogue converter that transforms the digital control information coming,  
15 in preferred embodiments, from the afore proposed digital signal processor to the analogue voltage controlling the bias of the amplifier control input.

Consequently, some of the main merits of the inventive efficiency enhanced power amplification approach are the reduced operational costs including lower energy consumption, the lower efforts for thermal management, for the amplifier  
20 itself and the component the amplifier is embedded within as well as the possibility to design more environmental friendly amplifiers which is in particular important for wireless systems, cellular networks, terrestrial broadcasting systems and satellite based transmission systems.

Subsequently, the invention is exemplary described in more detail based  
25 on two preferred embodiments and with regard to the accompanied drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing the principle concept of the inventive approach using a variable amplifier input power for the purpose of reconstruction of the amplitude content,

FIG. 2 is a diagram showing the achievable improvement in efficiency,  
30 based on the concept according to FIG. 1, over a traditional operated amplifier and the deterioration over the known EER technique.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram showing the principle concept of the inventive approach using a variable bias voltage at the control input for the reconstruction of the amplitude content, and

FIG. 4 is showing the change in efficiency, based on the concept according to FIG. 3, over a traditional operated amplifier and an amplifier that is operated as proposed in the known EER concept.

With regard to the following exemplar description and to form a basis for an easier understanding of the inventive approach, reference is made in particular to the afore-discussed known efficiency enhancement concept EER (Envelope Elimination and Restoration), according to which the amplifier input signal is converted to a purely phase modulated signal and the amplitude modulated part of the input signal is processed separately.

Regarding the preferred but exemplar inventive embodiments, such a conversion process may be done with help of a limiter or, as depicted in FIG. 1 and FIG. 3, with the help of modern signal processing at the baseband frequency using a digital signal processor DSP to which the baseband is fed (not depicted in FIG. 1 and FIG. 3).

Then conventionally, at the last stage of the amplifier chain the amplitude part of the original input signal should be reconstructed by changing the supply voltage of the final stage amplifier. Hence, to be able to do this, a very fast power supply is needed that is able to follow the envelope of the original signal.

For example, for an UMTS signal, the frequency of the envelope can be as high as 5 MHz. Additionally this power supply must be high efficient to not degrade the efficiency of the whole amplifier unit including the power supply. For this reason switching DC/DC converters should preferably be used as power supply.

In comparison to this known state of the art, the inventive approach uses a plurality of fixed power supply units PSU 1, PSU 2, PSU x for applying, based on the exemplar embodiments of FIG. 1 and FIG. 3, fixed output voltages in parallel to the amplifier, wherein each of the power supply units has a different output voltage, resulting in an enhanced improvement, according to the following description.

Hence by preferably using DC/DC converters as power supply units, the power supply units PSU 1, PSU 2 and PSU x respectively provided with an input voltage can be optimized very easy for a certain behavior, such as efficiency and load

regulation, as they need to output, according to the inventive approach only a fixed voltage. However, it is noted, that also fixed supply currents can be used depending of the respective amplifier type.

The preferred DC/DC converters PSU 1, PSU 2 and PSU x supplying the  
5 amplifier with the necessary DC power are not used to reconstruct the amplitude part of the original input signal which have to be amplified by continuously changing the amplifier supply voltage according to the amplitude content of the original input signal. Thus, the power supply units PSU 1, PSU 2 and PSU x are used to effectively provide the amplifier with various fixed supply voltages to increase the amplifier efficiency in  
10 particular for lower output power levels.

Accordingly, the lower the power at the amplifier output indicated in FIG. 1 and FIG. 3 by the reference sign RF output, the lower must be the fixed supply voltage. As a consequence, to gain an efficiency enhancement from this inventive approach at least two different fixed supply voltages have to be used, i.e. one high  
15 supply voltage, provided for example by the power supply unit PSU 1, for getting the rated maximum output power from the final stage and one lower supply voltage, provided for example by the power supply unit PSU 2, for achieving an efficiency improvement for lower output power levels.

In this regard, the lower fixed supply voltage is used beginning at a  
20 certain power back-off, such as for example at a 3dB to 4dB power back-off, as depicted in FIG. 2 and FIG. 4 respectively by the graphs b or b' (3dB back-off) and c or c' (4dB back-off), and subsequent to lower output power levels. In practice, the specific power back-off may depend on the application specific peak to average power ratio of the original input signal converted into the phase modulated signal part and the  
25 amplitude modulated signal part.

Moreover, the value of the lower supply voltage preferably depends on the characteristics of the original input signal, in particular on the efficiency improvement which have to be achieved for a certain power back-off and on the characteristics of the amplifier itself.

30 Hence, it is proposed to use for each fixed supply voltage an extra power supply unit PSU 1, PSU 2, PSU x, such as the preferred DC/DC converters, that is optimized in efficiency and performance for the respective fixed supply voltage. The amplifier, as can be seen in FIG. 1 and FIG. 3, then is supplied with the desirable

different voltages by switching those voltages by means of the digital signal processor DSP providing for each power supply unit PSU 1, PSU 2 and PSU x an individual control signal Control 1, Control 2 or Control x for the respective switching proposes, in particular based on the aforementioned dependencies.

5                   Accordingly, the DC/DC converter output voltages are stabile and available when needed, i.e. either the power supply units PSU 1, PSU 2 and PSU x are running all the time or they are switched on when needed and switched off when not needed.

                  Since the amplifier supply voltage according to the inventive approach is  
10 not changed continuously according to the amplitude content of the original input signal problems with regard to a lack of speed are avoided.

                  In this regard it is worth to mention, that by using a DC/DC converter as power supply even to fulfil the requirement for high efficient power supply, such requirement for speed usually can not be met as the state of the art switched power  
15 supplies operate at maximum 1 MHz. The switching frequency however, should be at least about three times of the maximum envelope frequency, which can be as high as 5 MHz for an UMTS signal. On the other hand side if a conventional linear regulator is used, the requirement for speed could be met but the requirement for high efficiency is violated, as the voltage drop at the linear regulator would result in dissipated heat,  
20 resulting in almost no efficiency improvement of the complete amplifier unit including the power supply.

                  Based on the inventive approach, that the amplifier supply voltage is not changed continuously according to the amplitude content of the original input signal, the amplitude content of the original signal is preferably reconstruct according to the  
25 following description.

                  Based on FIG. 1 for each fixed supply voltage provided by the respective selected power supply unit PSU 1, PSU 2 and/or PSU x the power level  $P_{in}$  of the original input signal is changed by means of the digital signal processing unit DSP in that way, that the amplitude content of the original signal is reconstructed at the  
30 amplifiers unit output. Thereby the differences in the amplifier gain are taken into account when switching between the different supply units PSU 1, PSU 2, PSU x.

                  As an exemplar illustration for this inventive reconstruction approach, FIG. 2 is depicting obtainable final stage efficiencies over power back off in comparison

to known approaches, wherein the graph a is representing the efficiency of a non-linear amplifier according to the known EER concept and the graph d is representing the efficiency of a common amplifier design where the amplifier is operated at one fixed supply voltage, for example at 26 V.

5                   The graphs b and c in Fig. 2 respectively represents the final stage efficiencies based on the inventive switched amplifier supply approach with an exemplar switching at the 3dB power back-off or at the 4 dB power back-off and by providing a variable power input level  $P_{in}$  of the original signal to reconstruct the amplitude content. As can be seen from FIG. 2, at a power back-off of approximately 8  
10 dB the efficiency with regard to common amplifier designs increases from about 17% to at least 27%.

                  Accordingly, since the amplitude content of the original input signal, as can be seen in FIG. 1, is not removed but is only modified to compensate the different gains for different supply voltages, linear amplifiers are more suitable for this  
15 reconstruction approach, even if they offer lower efficiency values than non linear saturated amplifiers. In practice, however, an efficiency improvement can be gained anyhow compared to common amplifier designs, forming the basis of the graphs d of Fig. 2 and 4, where the amplifiers is operated at one fixed supply voltage.

                  Regarding next the very preferred embodiment with regard to the  
20 reconstruction according to Fig. 3, the amplitude of the original input signal is reconstructed at the final amplifier unit output by changing the amplifier biasing voltage  $U_g$  at the control input. It is noted that it depends on the type of the amplifier used whether the amplifier biasing voltage or current has to be changed.

                  Thereby the differences in the amplifier gain in turn are taken into  
25 account when switching between the different supply voltages, i.e. the different supply units PSU 1, PSU 2, PSU x. Furthermore, the varying of the amplifier biasing signal can be easily realized by using a fast and low efficient linear regulator as the DC powers necessary for the biasing purpose are much lower than those DC powers necessary for supplying the amplifier. For example the biasing DC power for a FET as amplifier unit  
30 as depicted in FIG. 3 is almost zero, as FET's do not draw current at the gate.

                  Moreover, the level of the phase modulated signal at the amplifier input is preferably chosen such that the amplifier is not overdriven. This ensures in particular,



that at one hand an improvement in efficiency is gained and that on the other hand the necessary dynamics at the output is achievable.

As an illustration for this inventive reconstruction approach, FIG. 4 is depicting exemplar graphs b' and c' representing final stage efficiencies over power back off based on the variability of the biasing voltage  $U_g$  to reconstruct the amplitude content according to Fig. 3 in comparison to known approaches. The exemplar switching of the amplifier supply is at the 3dB power back-off with regard to graph b' and at the 4 dB power back-off with regard to graph c'.

As known approaches, in turn graph a is representing the efficiency of the non-linear amplifier according to the known EER concept and graph d is representing the efficiency of the common amplifier design with the fixed supply voltage at 26 V.

As can be seen for example from FIG. 4, at a power back-off of approximately 8 dB the efficiency with regard to the common amplifier designs increases from about 17% to at least 31%.

As a consequence even if, as can be also seen for example from FIG. 2 and 4, the achievable efficiency improvement may be lower for the inventive embodiments than with the known EER concept utilizing an efficient DC/DC converter with a variable supply voltage, the inventive approach always has the advantage of feasibility and practicability as the amplifier supply voltage is only switched between a set of fixed values, not continuously changed.



**Claims**

1. Method of performing power amplification under variable envelope excitation, comprising the steps of
  - 5 - converting an original input signal at least into a phase modulated signal part,  
-feeding at least the phase modulated signal part to an input port of an amplifier unit.  
- amplifying the input signal by dynamically selecting a fixed power supply (PSU 1, PSU 2, PSU 3) for the amplifier unit,  
10 - wherein the amplitude content of the original input signal is reconstructed by changing  
dependent on the respective provided power supply a further controllable input  
of the amplifier unit, in particular the input power level ( $P_{in}$ ) and/or the biasing  
voltage ( $U_g$ ) and/or biasing current at the control input of the amplifier unit,  
during said step of amplifying.
2. Method of claim 1, further characterized in that the dynamical  
15 selection of a fixed power supply (PSU 1, PSU 2, PSU 3) is performed by switching  
between at least two different fixed supply currents or supply voltages, in particular by  
taken into account the difference in providing gain.
3. Method of claim 1 or 2, further comprising the step of operating the  
amplifier unit with the phase modulated signal part in a non-overdriven condition.
- 20 4. Method of any of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of  
compensating non-linearity by pre-distorting the power supply (PSU 1, PSU 2, PSU 3)  
for the amplifier unit and/or by pre-distorting the amplifier unit biasing voltage and/or  
biasing current at the control input.
5. Method of any of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of  
25 lowpass filtering of a control signal for providing the changeable amplifier unit biasing  
voltage ( $U_g$ ) and/or biasing current at the control input with a cut-off frequency close to  
the modulation bandwidth of the original input signal.

6. Method of any of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of converting the original input signal into an amplitude modulated signal part, according to which the input power level ( $P_{in}$ ) is changed.

7. Power amplifier comprising

- 5 - at least a final amplifier unit,
- means (DSP) for feeding at least the phase modulated signal part of an original input signal to the input port of the amplifier unit,
- at least two selectable power supply units (PSU 1, PSU 2, PSU 3) with different fixed output powers connected to the supply port of the amplifier unit,
- 10 - means (DSP) for dynamically selecting a total supply power by selecting the respective power supply unit or units and
- means (DSP) for controlling dependent on the respective selected supply power a further amplifier unit input, in particular the input power level ( $P_{in}$ ) and/or the biasing voltage ( $U_g$ ) and/or biasing current at the control input of the amplifier
- 15 unit.

8. Power amplifier of claim 7, wherein each of the power supply units (PSU 1, PSU 2, PSU 3) comprises a DC/DC converter and/or is connected to the supply port in parallel and/or is selected by a common digital signal processor (DSP).

9. Power amplifier of claim 7 or 8, wherein a linear regulator is used to  
20 control the amplifiers biasing voltage and/or current at the control input and/or wherein a control path with a lowpass filter for controlling the amplifier unit input biasing voltage and/or biasing current is comprised.

10. Power amplifier of any of claims 7 to 9, wherein the means for controlling the amplifier unit input power level comprises a digital signal processor  
25 (DSP) and/or the means for controlling the amplifier unit input biasing voltage and/or biasing current comprises a digital signal processor and a D/A converter.

**Abstract**

The invention relates to power amplification under variable envelope excitation.

It is an object of the invention to provide a new and improved efficiency enhanced power amplifier approach resulting in reduced operational costs, lower efforts for thermal management for the amplifier unit itself and the component in which the amplifier is embedded and in the possibility to design more environmental friendly amplifiers, especially suitable for applications within wireless systems, cellular networks, terrestrial broadcasting systems and satellite based transmission systems.

10           The invention proposes a power amplification under variable envelope excitation, wherein an original input signal at least is converted into a phase modulated signal part, at least the phase modulated signal part is fed to an input port of an amplifier unit, the input signal is amplified by dynamically selecting a fixed power supply (PSU 1, PSU 2, PSU 3) for the amplifier unit, and wherein the amplitude content  
15 of the original input signal is reconstructed by changing dependent on the respective provided power supply a further controllable input of the amplifier unit, in particular the input power level ( $P_{in}$ ) and/or the biasing voltage ( $U_g$ ) and/or biasing current at the control input of the amplifier unit, during said step of amplifying.



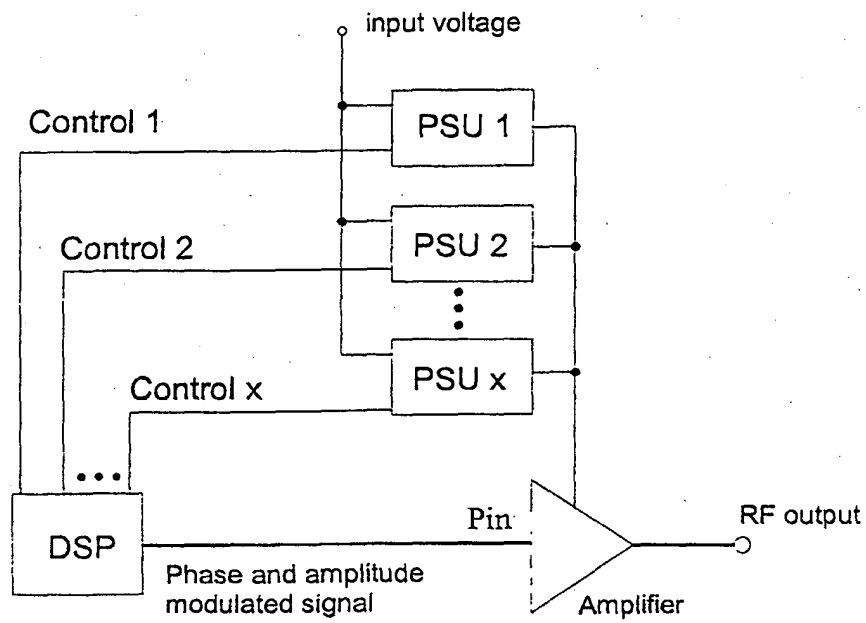
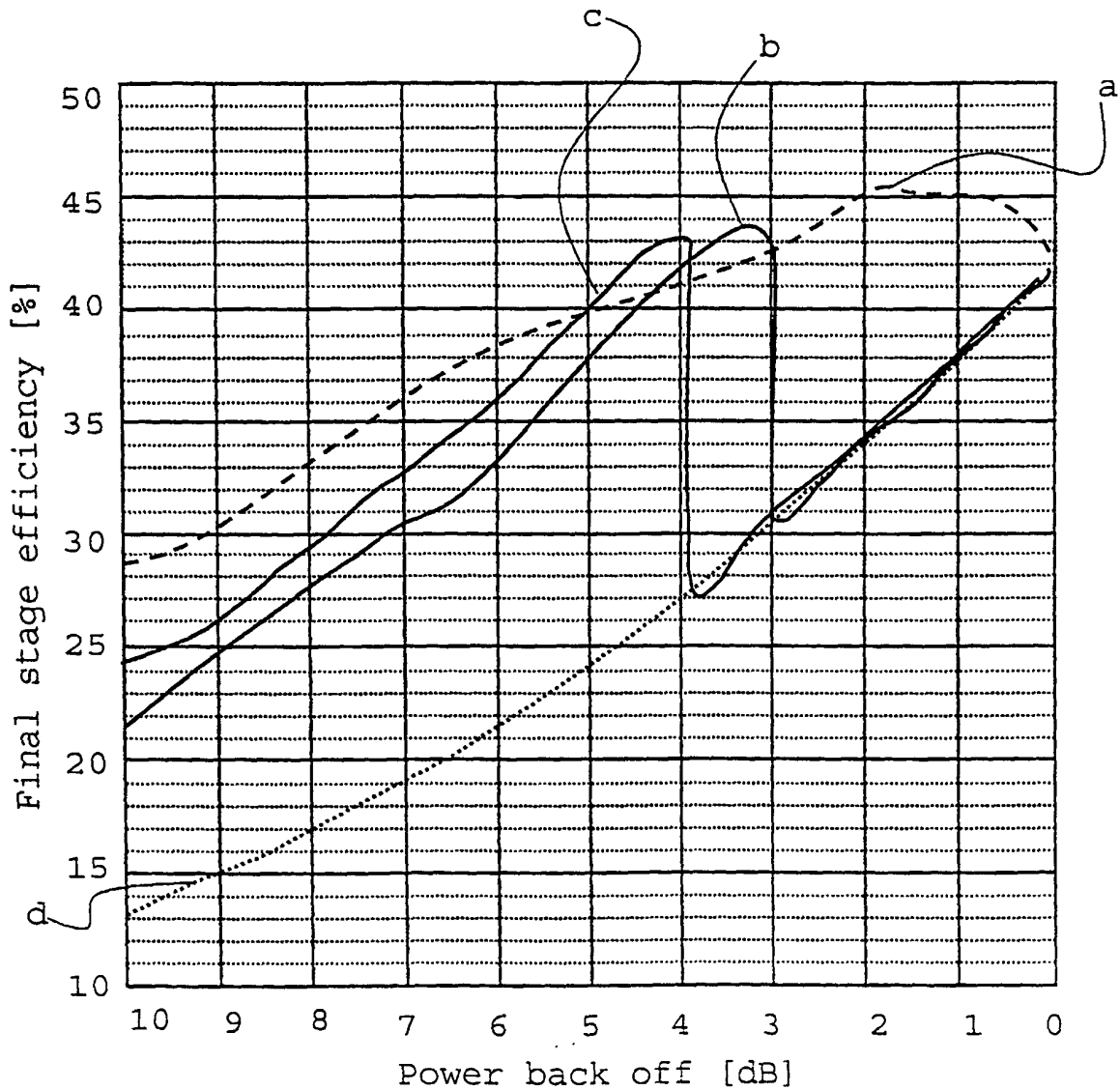
Fig. 1

Fig. 2

- a) 400mA, var.supply, onboard  $Z_a$
- b) 400mA, swi.supply at 3dB back off, var.  $P_{in}$
- c) 400mA, swi.supply at 4dB back off, var.  $P_{in}$
- d) 400mA, 26V supply, onboard  $Z_a$



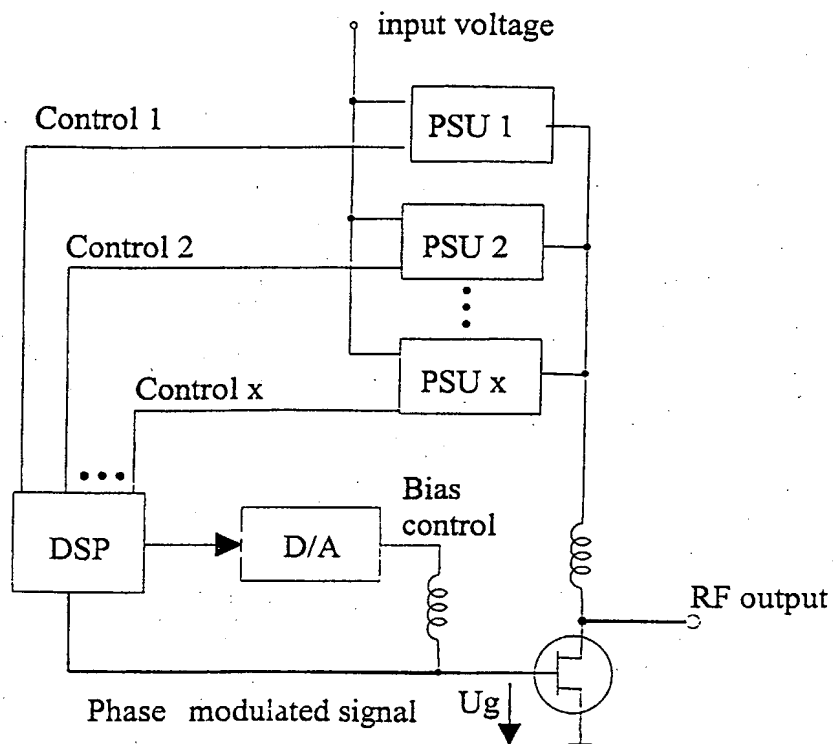
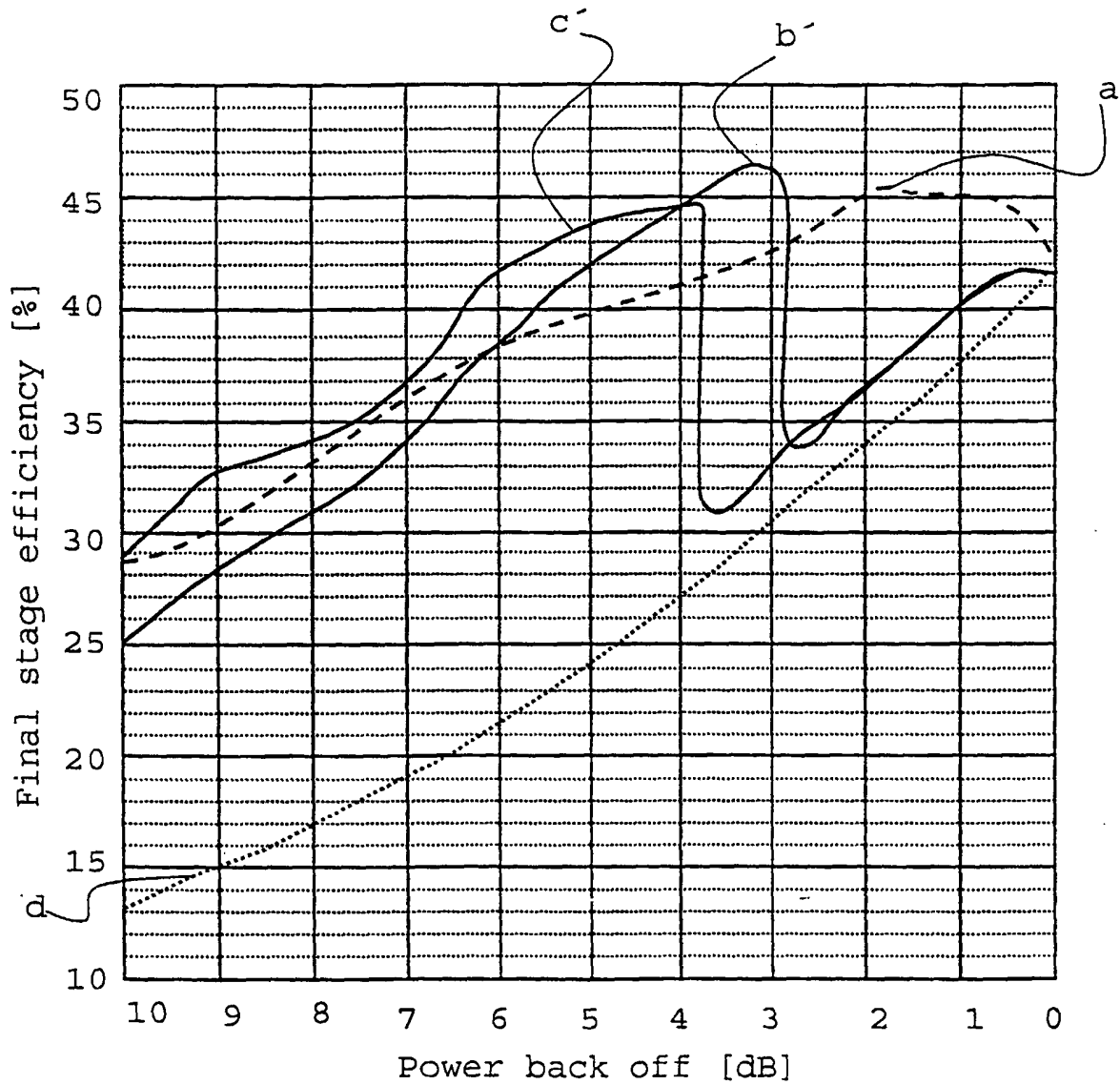
Fig. 3

Fig. 4



- a ) 400mA, var.supply,onboard  $Z_a$
- b ) 400mA, swi.supply at 3dB back off, var.  $U_g$
- c ) 400mA, swi.supply at 4dB back off, var.  $U_g$
- d ) 400mA, 26V supply,onboard  $Z_a$